

of Washington spending. Instead of Washington spending more money, we are able now to let you keep more of the money you earn in your own home instead of starting new Washington spending programs out here, and the programs are not working. Spending was going up by 5.2 percent before we got here. We have slowed the growth by 40 percent. It is now going up by 3.2. It is still going up too fast for many of us.

I have talked to a lot of my constituents out there who are very concerned about the fact that Washington spending is still going up too fast and I have to tell all of those folks I agree with them, it is still going up too fast but it is going up at a much slower rate than it was before. Because we have a strong economy coupled with a slower growth of Federal spending, we are now able to balance the budget for the first time since 1969, lower taxes for the first time in 16 years, and restore Medicare all at the same time. This is good news for America. This is what we got sent here to do in 1995, and I am happy to report back to the American people that with the Republican-controlled House and Republican-controlled Senate and in all fairness with a Democrat President, we have gotten to the point where we have literally balanced the budget for the first time since 1969, when I was a sophomore in high school, lowered taxes and restored Medicare.

The future, even after the budget is balanced, we have still got that \$5.3 trillion debt staring us in the face. The Social Security money is part of that \$5.3 trillion debt. I am happy to report that we have a bill on the table today that will in fact pay off the entire Federal debt by 2023, restore the Social Security trust fund for our senior citizens and lower taxes each and every year as far as the eye can see, giving us the opportunity to dump the IRS as we know it today and get in a system that is easier, simpler, and fairer to the American people. That is a complete picture of an entirely changed Government in Washington, DC. The past of broken promises and higher taxes changed in 1995 to a Government that is going to do the right thing, balance the budget, lower taxes, restore Medicare, and a group of people that are actually looking forward to the future and acknowledging that we still have these problems that must be addressed. We are going to pay off the Federal debt, restore the Social Security trust fund, and lower taxes even further and reform the IRS. That is what the future holds, and for a change we should be looking brightly to the future and to bright, wonderful opportunities of growth and hope and prosperity for our children for the next generation. That is what this is all about and that is what the American people as well as my colleagues here in Washington need to know has changed out here. It is a phenomenal change. More important than any of the people here in this city is what it means to the future of this great Nation we live in. Once again our

generation has a chance to look forward to the next generation and say in fact that we are able to pass America on to the next generation in better shape than we received it in.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The Chair would remind all Members to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the television audience.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1805

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. COBLE] at 6 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the further consideration of H.R. 2264, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, July 31, 1997, and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2264.

□ 1805

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. GOODLATTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Friday, Sep-

tember 5, 1997, the bill was open for amendment from page 11, line 1, through page 25, line 8, and pending was the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. BLUNT].

Is there further debate on the amendment?

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Blunt amendment to increase Federal spending for vocational education programs by \$11.25 million. Mr. Chairman, earlier this year the Committee on Education and the Workforce worked very hard to improve vocational education opportunities for our country's youth so that the vocational education system will provide quality vocational education for students. These improvements will ensure that our students are equipped to thrive in today's business world.

We worked to streamline and modernize this system because recent trends prove that about three-fourths of America's youth do not complete a 4-year college degree. All of America's young people should receive a high quality education regardless of whether they are bound for college, military service, or directly into the work force. This is even more true today than it was a few years ago as we focus on moving people off the welfare rolls and into work environments, many of whom will not go to college.

We should empower our youth by giving them the vital tools they need to be productive wage earners. We should empower adults to go back and get the education they need to supplement and advance up the work force. We should work through vocational education to look at prevention and not just harassment of businesses as in many cases we find in OSHA. In contrast, in spending dollars on OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, to the tune of \$336 million, we are funding an agency to issue rules that are not only silly but in some cases detrimental.

Let me give an example. OSHA specifically disregarded clear evidence that their recent requirements changing brake composition would double the stopping distance for cars. Their best estimates, using bad science, indicated they might save three to five workers' lives every few years. By changing the composition of brake pads they increased stopping distance of vehicles by 20 feet. This, according to clear scientific studies by the National Safety Transportation Board, will cause at least 150 more deaths each year and thousands of unnecessary injuries. This was done despite the fact that auto accidents are still a major cause of fatalities among American workers. There is no data that asbestos brakes causes hazards to anybody but there is data that shortening the time it takes to stop a car causes deaths. Why would we as a Republican Congress increase funding for OSHA where